

**Town of Amherst**  
**DRAFT MOTIONS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL**

Monday, December 7, 2020

6:30 p.m.

Virtual Meeting

Members Participating Remotely: Bahl-Milne, Brewer, De Angelis, DuMont, Griesemer, Hanneke, Pam, Ross, Ryan, Schoen, Schreiber, Steinberg, Swartz

Members Absent: None

Others Participating Remotely: Town Manager Paul Bockelman, Finance Director Sean Mangano, Planning Director Sharon Sharry, IT Director Sean Hannon, School Committee Chair Allison McDonald, Jones Library Trustees President Austin Sarat, Ranked Choice Voting Commission Chair Tanya Leise, and Clerk of the Council Athena O’Keeffe

Pursuant to Governor Baker’s March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, this meeting of the Town Council is being conducted via remote participation.

**All votes taken by roll call.**

Per MGL Chapter 30A Section 20(f), this meeting is being recorded and broadcast by Amherst Media.

---

President Griesemer called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

**5. Consent Agenda**

Consent Agenda: The following items were selected because they were considered to be routine and it was reasonable to expect they would pass with no controversy. To remove an item from the consent agenda for discussion later in the meeting, ask that it be removed when the President lists the consent agenda items. The request to remove an item from the consent agenda does not require a second.

**MOTION:** To move the following items, and the printed motions thereunder and approve those items as a single unit:

- 6.a. Adoption of Annual Human Rights Day Proclamation
- 6.c. Adoption of Official Citation in Honor of Marilyn V. Patton
- 8.b.(1) Amendment to section 4 of the Town Council Policy Regarding the Control and Regulation of the Public Ways
- 9.a.(1) Approval of Town Manager Appointments to the following multiple-member bodies:
  - Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Advisory Committee
- 11. Approval of Minutes:
  - a. November 9, 2020 Special Town Council Meeting minutes - Financial Indicators
  - b. November 9, 2020 Regular Town Council Meeting minutes
  - c. November 14, 2020 Special Town Council Meeting minutes
  - d. November 16, 2020 Special Town Council Meeting minutes – Public Forum on Ambulance Appropriation
  - e. November 16, 2020 Regular Town Council Meeting minutes
  - f. November 19, 2020 Special Town Council Meeting minutes – Budget Forum

Councilor Schoen requested removal of 8.b.(2) Approval of the permanent use of the public way for Soofa Solar Information and Communication Signs Project

Motion by: Griesemer

Seconded by: Ryan

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** unanimous, 13-0

6. **Resolutions and Proclamations**

a. **Annual Human Rights Day Proclamation**

**VOTED VIA CONSENT AGENDA:**

**MOTION:** To adopt the “Annual Human Rights Day Proclamation,” as presented.

b. **Resolution Affirming the Town of Amherst’s Commitment to End Structural Racism and Achieve Racial Equity for Black Residents**

**MOTION:** To adopt the “Resolution Affirming the Town of Amherst’s Commitment to End Structural Racism and Achieve Racial Equity for Black Residents,” as presented.

Motion by: De Angelis

Seconded by: Bahl-Milne

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** unanimous, 13-0

**MOTION:** To amend the resolution by adding:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Amherst Town Council supports the proclamation of the General Assembly of the United Nations of the International Decade of People of African Descent, 2015-2024, promote the study of its theme of recognition, justice and development, and align future town activities for racial justice with the advancement of human rights for all.

Motion by: DuMont

Seconded by: Bahl-Milne

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 11-2 (Councilors Bahl-Milne, and DuMont voted Yes; Councilors Brewer, De Angelis, Griesemer, Hanneke, Pam, Ross, Ryan, Schoen, Schreiber, Steinberg, and Swartz voted No); **the motion failed.**

c. **Official Citation in Honor of Marilyn V. Patton**

**VOTED VIA CONSENT AGENDA:**

**MOTION:** To adopt the “Official Citation in Honor of Marilyn V. Patton,” as presented.

8. **Action Items**

a. **Ranked-Choice Voting**

**First reading**

b. **Use of the Public Way**

**VOTED VIA CONSENT AGENDA:**

(1) **Revision to section 4 of the Policy Regarding Control and Regulation of the Public Way**

**MOTION:** To amend, as recommended by the Town Council Town Services and Outreach Committee (TSO) report of December 4, 2020, and the Governance, Organization, and Legislation Committee (GOL) report of December 7, 2020: section 4 of the Town Council Policy Regarding the Control and Regulation of the Public Ways by adding the words shown in **bold** and deleting the words in ~~strikeout~~:

**Massachusetts State or Emergency** and Zoning Bylaw Article 14: Temporary Zoning Related Requests

a. Notwithstanding the above limitations in Sections 2.a, 2.b, 3.b, and 3.c, all temporary short-term and long-term parking requests, sidewalk closures, road closures, or temporary uses (such as display of signage) requested in conjunction with requests to expand sidewalk café, food and drink, and other retail areas under **any order of the Governor of Massachusetts in response to a declared State of Emergency pursuant to Chapter 639 of the Acts of 1950**, Zoning Bylaw Article 14: Temporary Zoning, or other requests

to facilitate the reopening of retail business and encourage public activity in local business districts.

- i. Town Council delegates the review and action authority to the Town Manager, with approvals not to extend past 180 days ~~past the effective date~~ **after the end of the pertinent State of Emergency or the termination date** of Zoning Bylaw Article 14, with a monthly report of all requests and approvals provided to the Town Council.

**(2) Public Information and Emergency Communication Signs**

**MOTION:** To approve the use of the public way for one year to install public information and emergency communication signs and solar charging stations, known as the Soofa Solar Information and Communication Signs Project, at the following locations, as recommended by the Town Council Town Services and Outreach Committee (TSO) report of December 4, 2020: These locations are subject to adjustments in the field by the Town Engineer, as necessary.

- One (1) Information Sign on North Pleasant St. by the crosswalk (across from Central Fire Station/in front of former Starbucks location)
- One (1) Information Sign at the northwest corner of Amity St. and North Pleasant St.
- One (1) Information Sign at the sidewalk of South Pleasant Street and Spring Street (in front of the Town Common by the Spring St. Parking Lot)
- One (1) Solar Charging Station near intersection of North Pleasant Street and Cowles Lane (at the benches in front of St Brigid's Parish);
- One (1) Solar Charging Station in front of the Jones Library at 43 Amity St. (by the existing bench and crosswalk)
- One (1) Solar Charging Station on North Pleasant St. sidewalk (by the benches outside of 103 N. Pleasant St)

Motion by: Griesemer

Seconded by: Schoen

**The motion was withdrawn.**

**MOTION:** To approve the permanent use of the public way at the following locations to install solar charging stations at the following locations, as recommended by the Town Council Town Services and Outreach Committee (TSO) report of December 4, 2020: These locations are subject to adjustments in the field by the Town Engineer, as necessary:

- One (1) Solar Charging Station near intersection of North Pleasant Street and Cowles Lane (at the benches in front of St Brigid's Parish);
- One (1) Solar Charging Station in front of the Jones Library at 43 Amity St. (by the existing bench and crosswalk);
- One (1) Solar Charging Station on North Pleasant St. sidewalk (by the benches outside of 103 N. Pleasant St)

Motion by: Brewer

Second by: Hanneke

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** unanimous, 13-0

**MOTION:** To approve the temporary use of the public way to install public information and emergency communication signs, known as the Soofa Solar Information and Communication Signs Project, for one year from installation, at the following locations, as recommended by the Town Council Town Services and Outreach Committee (TSO) report of December 4, 2020; these locations are subject to adjustments in the field by the Town Engineer, as necessary:

- One (1) Information Sign on North Pleasant St. by the crosswalk (across from Central Fire Station/in front of former Starbucks location)
- One (1) Information Sign at the northwest corner of Amity St. and North Pleasant St.
- One (1) Information Sign at the sidewalk of South Pleasant Street and Spring Street (in front of the Town Common by the Spring St. Parking Lot)

Motion by: Brewer

Seconded by: De Angelis

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** unanimous, 13-0

**e. Zoning Priorities – First Discussion**

**9. Appointments**

**a. Town Manager Appointments**

**(1) Community Development Block Grant Advisory Committee (CDBG) – Consent Agenda**

**VOTED VIA CONSENT AGENDA:**

**MOTION:** To approve the following Town Manager appointment to the Community Development Block Grant Advisory Committee (CDBG), effective immediately, as filed with the Town Clerk on November 18, 2020, and recommended by the Town Services and Outreach Committee report of December 4, 2020:

- For a term to expire June 30, 2021:
  - Rika Clement

**(2) Personnel Board**

**MOTION:** To approve the following Town Manager appointments to the Personnel Board, effective immediately, as filed with the Town Clerk on November 17, 2020, and recommended by the Town Services and Outreach Committee report of December 4, 2020:

- For terms to expire June 30, 2023:
  - Tony Butterfield (reappointment)
  - Rebecca Woodland (reappointment)
- For a term to expire June 30, 2022:
  - Catharine Porter (reappointment)
- For terms to expire June 30, 2021:
  - Christopher Hoffman, Jones Library Trustee designee (reappointment)
  - Charles Scherpa, employee designee (reappointment)

Motion by: Griesemer

Seconded by: Ryan

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 10-2, 1 absent (Councilors Bahl-Milne, Brewer, De Angelis, Griesemer, Pam, Ross, Ryan, Schoen, Schreiber, and Steinberg voted Yes; Councilors DuMont and Hanneke voted No; Councilor Swartz was absent)

**MOTION:** To amend the motion to change Catharine Porter’s term to expire June 30, 2023, change Charles Scherpa’s term to expire June 30, 2022, and change Tony Butterfield’s term to expire June 30, 2021.

Motion by: Hanneke

Seconded by: DuMont

**The motion was withdrawn**

**MOTION:** To reject the reappointment of Tony Butterfield, and to approve the following Town Manager appointments to the Personnel Board, effective immediately, as filed with the Town Clerk on November 17, 2020, and recommended by the Town Services and Outreach Committee report of December 4, 2020:

- For terms to expire June 30, 2023:
  - Rebecca Woodland (reappointment)
- For a term to expire June 30, 2022:
  - Catharine Porter (reappointment)
- For terms to expire June 30, 2021:
  - Christopher Hoffman, Jones Library Trustee designee (reappointment)
  - Charles Scherpa, employee designee (reappointment)

Motion by: Hanneke

Seconded by: DuMont

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 2-9, 1 abstain, 1 absent (Councilors DuMont and Hanneke voted Yes; Councilors Bahl-Milne, Brewer, De Angelis, Griesemer, Pam, Ross, Ryan, Schreiber, and Steinberg voted No; Councilor Schoen Abstained; Councilor Swartz was absent)

**11. Approval of Minutes**

**a-f. Approval of minutes**

**VOTED VIA CONSENT AGENDA:**

**MOTION:** To approve the following Town Council minutes, as presented:

- November 9, 2020 Special Town Council Meeting minutes - Financial Indicators
- November 9, 2020 Regular Town Council Meeting minutes
- November 14, 2020 Special Town Council Meeting minutes
- November 16, 2020 Special Town Council Meeting minutes – Public Forum on Ambulance Appropriation
- November 16, 2020 Regular Town Council Meeting minutes
- November 19, 2020 Special Town Council Meeting minutes – Budget Forum

The Council adjourned at 11:44 p.m.